

Suffield, Connecticut

Approved by Bd. of Ed.: 6/18/13

Board of Education Meeting
June 4, 2013

Call to Order

Board Chair, Sue Porcello, called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m. in the Suffield High School Media Center. Present: Board members Sue Porcello, Lori D'Ostuni, Michelle Zawawi, Mary Lou Sanborn, Bob Eccles, George Beiter and Scott Schneider and Superintendent of Schools, Karen Baldwin.

Beiter moved, Sanborn seconded to move into executive session at 5:52 p.m. for the personnel matter of interviewing the finalist candidate for the K – 12 Mathematics Supervisor.

Board member Roy arrived at 6:05 p.m. Board member Gee arrived at 6:23 p.m.

Sanborn moved, Beiter seconded to move into regular session at 6:37 p.m.

Those present for the meeting included board members Sue Porcello, Lori D'Ostuni, Jeanne Gee, Mary Roy, Michelle Zawawi, Mary Lou Sanborn, Bob Eccles, George Beiter and Scott Schneider; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Special Services, Jim Collin; Superintendent of Schools, Karen Baldwin and observers.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Communications

Robert Rader, Executive Director of CABE, contacted the Superintendent's Office to discuss BOE membership status with CABE. The Board Chair returned his call.

Board member Zawawi left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Eccles moved, Sanborn seconded to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 Special Board of Education meeting. Board member Gee moved that the last paragraph under Policy Subcommittee be amended to read **“Board member Gee requested that numbers and exit interview information on students leaving the district be shared with the Board”**. Roy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

MOTION #13-34: Schneider moved, Eccles seconded **to approve the following items on the consent agenda: textbook adoption – American Politics Today and The Lanahan Readings in American Polity**. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Action Items

- Appointment of K-12 Mathematics Supervisor – The Superintendent introduced Kim Loveland, candidate for the position of district K-12 Mathematics Supervisor. Board member Beiter stated that the candidate appeared to be extremely knowledgeable in this subject area. **MOTION #13-35:** D'Ostuni moved, Roy seconded to **appoint Kim Loveland as K-12 Mathematics Supervisor, effective July 1, 2013.** The motion passed with one abstention (Beiter).

Board member Zawawi returned to the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

- Report of Draft Curriculum Audit Findings
Assistant Superintendent, Jim Collin, provided a spreadsheet with an overview of curriculum revision to date. The spreadsheet listed subject areas, date of last curriculum modification, indication of whether CCSS was written into the unit document, date lesson planners were introduced and date lesson planners were written. Chair Porcello asked how often the spreadsheet would be updated. The Superintendent stated that curriculum writing is a process and reports would most likely be made to the Board on a quarterly basis. The Assistant Superintendent stated that the science standards have just been released nationwide. Board member Gee hoped that there would be more opportunity for districts to discuss approval of these new standards, which did not happen with the English/Language Arts and Math standards. Board member Sanborn reminded the Board that, per Board of Education policy, curriculum changes had to be brought to the Board of Education for review. Board member D'Ostuni asked if there was a plan to train staff to assist the curriculum supervisors with the revision process. The Superintendent confirmed that teacher leaders will be trained to use templates and understand the standards to help with this time intensive project. Currently, mathematics and language arts are the focus; however, library media work has begun, as well as scope and sequence for social studies 6-8. Curriculum review/revision for Unified Arts will be undertaken in the 2013/14 school year. "Snapshots" of the curriculum review project can be presented to the Board by the end of the summer.

Board Chair Porcello left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

- Large Animal Facility/Fire Pump Project
The Superintendent updated the Board on the Fire Pump Project at Suffield High School. The Town Attorney has sent a letter to the contractor and the engineer and is awaiting a response relative to their plan to finish this project. The Permanent Building Commission would like to take over this project and start from scratch. Board member Gee asked if the Board of Education would have any involvement in the decision of what direction to take in getting this project completed. Board member Eccles cautioned that liability could become an issue if the Board is involved. It is hoped that a response from the contractor and engineer will be received by the next Board of Education meeting. The target for the Certificate of Occupancy is September 1, 2013.

An outside natural gas leak was detected at the Large Animal Facility on Tuesday. Yankee Gas shut off the gas pending inspection by the contractor. The punch list on the building continues to be addressed. Board member Beiter inquired if we were ready to

move in once the C.O. is issued. The Superintendent stated that some equipment is still outstanding, but we are ready to move forward. There is a meeting scheduled on Thursday regarding the furniture grant.

Board Chair Porcello returned to the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

- Robotics – Robotics advisor, Bob Lowell, reported to the Board on this year's team efforts. The team competed in Lewiston, Maine, April 4-6 and came away with a 2nd place trophy. Mr. Lowell praised the students for their sportsmanship and good conduct at the many meets during this past school year.

Chair's Report

- Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 9:30 a.m. Board members planning to attend should contact Central Office.
- A Board workshop with Tom Mooney is scheduled for June 18, 5:15 p.m. This workshop will deal with Executive Session. Board members need to let the Chair know if they are available for this workshop as soon as possible.
- How to Be a Better Board Member books were distributed to members who knew they did not have the book. Other copies are available for any Board members who have not yet received a copy.

Subcommittee Reports

- Policy Subcommittee – Subcommittee Chair, Mary Lou Sanborn stated that the subcommittee met briefly before the Board meeting. The Student Records/Confidentiality policy will be brought to the Board for the 30 day read at the next Board of Education meeting. The next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 16.
- Board member Roy attended a LEAD CT conference. She provided a written summary of the conference speakers to the Board.

Future Business

- Safety & Security Updates – Ongoing Training and Next Steps
- Common Core State Standards – SMS
- Large Animal Facility
- Substitute Service
- School Climate Survey
- Curriculum Audit Findings/K-12 Social Studies
- Financial Statements – March 2013
- National Honor Society
- Food Service Update

Board member Zawawi asked if some of the items on the Future Business list could have dates added to them as some appear on the list for a lengthy period of time. She also suggested giving presenters time limitations so more of these items could be shared in a single Board meeting.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Schneider moved, Roy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori D'Ostuni
Secretary

LD/ajk